

MINUTES

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
1st Fl. Community Development Conference Room
April 4, 2002
5:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Darren Smith
Don Ruff
Virginia Korte
Carla
Jane Rau
Darcy Thomas
Laura Fisher
Dennis Carr
Howard Myers
Les Conklin

Absent: Bill Berkley

Staff: Bob Cafarella
Claire Miller
Cathy Eley

Guests: Rick Russell

MINUTES

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Conklin to APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE March 7, 2002 MEETING. MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Ruff, which carried unanimously, 10-0.

PRESERVATION OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Cafarella distributed the capital budget for the Preserve amenities for the next five years. Mr. Cafarella stated that there was no significant change in the next year's operating budget recommendations. Mr. Cafarella noted that the budget committee had recommended that they do the \$50,000 Design Guidelines study in this budget year, so the Request for Proposal for this should be going out sometime soon.

Mr. Cafarella commented that they had put in a request for an additional person to manage the capital projects, but that it was not being recommended by the budget committee and the citizen's budget committee, but that they feel a one year delay would be appropriate.

Mr. Cafarella commented that the City Council has the final say in the budget process, noting that the only new positions being recommended are to have 8 new police dispatcher positions, but that 8 other positions in the City were being eliminated to accommodate those new positions.

Mr. Cafarella reviewed the capital improvement program for the Preserve with the Commission, noting that items 1 through 3 were funded, 4 is not funded (Attachment). Mr. Cafarella reported that: Hidden Hills is ready to go; 124th Street – condemnation is in process; the Gateway is State Trust Land; and North Access Area Amenities – still several items need to take place.

STATE LANDS GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

Mr. Cafarella stated that the City is working with the State Land Department on the General Plan Amendment on State Trust Lands in Scottsdale not classified for conservation under the API. Mr. Cafarella commented that there has been one open house and two neighborhood meetings have been scheduled, noting that the feedback from the participants of the March 21, 2002 open house were very positive.

Mr. Cafarella stated that some items were mentioned more than once:

- 1) Commercial is a no-no
- 2) Only 1 person wanted to see the extension of Lone Mountain Parkway out of the 117 in attendance
- 3) Lowest density possible
- 4) Find a way to buy all the land recommended for the Preserve.

Commissioner Myers commented that in order to be compatible with the surrounding areas of equestrian use, it would need to be very lowest density possible.

Mr. Cafarella encouraged Commissioners to attend the two neighborhood meetings. Mr. Cafarella stated that the first draft of the general plan amendment should be completed by the end of April and that the final plan should be completed by October.

Commissioner Carla asked if there was any mention about the loop road entrance to Legend Trail.

Mr. Cafarella stated that there was not.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cafarella stated that there was no need for an executive session tonight.

Mr. Cafarella commented that the State Land Department had received an application by an entity to purchase the land around Happy Valley/Jomax/Scottsdale/Hayden for development. Mr. Cafarella stated that the Mayor has talked with the State Land Commissioner about this application and that State Land Commissioner is not going to consider this application at any time in the near future. Mr. Cafarella noted that Scottsdale does not currently have the funding available to purchase this section.

Commissioner Myers commented that the City needs to work on ways to get additional funding.

Mr. Cafarella agreed.

Commissioner Carla stated that work on the constitutional amendment would begin to involve the public after the summer, noting that there should be a draft of the initiatives by August. Commissioner Carla commented that they were working on fixing the API and other issues.

Mr. Cafarella commented that the 400-acre site of State Land in the gateway was in the appraisal process. Mr. Cafarella noted that they have been contacted by interested parties who are willing to participate with Scottsdale on what Scottsdale would like to acquire. Mr. Cafarella commented that Scottsdale would have to put down thirty percent and that they would be working with the State on a payment plan for the rest.

Commissioner Carla commented that the Land Trust has been receiving calls with residents concerned with it being considered for auction and asked whom to refer the callers to.

Mr. Cafarella responded that staff would be handling the calls.

FOUNTAIN HILLS PRESERVATION AREA AND TRAILS PLANNING

Ms. Miller commented that the gray area on the Preserve Map that is at the edge of the Preserve but located in Fountain Hills has been platted for development and the green area is the land the town will preserve.

Ms. Miller stated that she has met with Fountain Hills and the County about trail connectivity and that there is a lot of work that needs to be done and that the trails maps need to be updated. Ms. Miller commented that they had also discussed management issues. Ms. Miller commented that one area of concern is with Fountain Hill's rule that there be no equestrian use on their trails.

Mr. Cafarella suggested that the Planning Committee may need to meet to work on that issue.

Commissioner Carr asked how they were going to proceed in working with Fountain Hills.

Ms. Miller responded that there would be more meetings and that there may also be field visits.

Commissioner Carla suggested staff would do the initial work on the Trails Master Plan update and that it would go to the Planning Committee who would then bring recommendations to the Commission. Commissioner Carla suggested a liaison from the Commission to Fountain Hills.

Commissioner Carr stated that he would be willing to do that.

Commissioner Korte asked why they did not allow equestrian uses.

Ms. Miller stated that the rule had been in effect for at least four years.

Commissioner Carla commented that it had been written into Fountain Hills preserve rules and regulations and that she doesn't feel that the equestrian community is aware of it.

Commissioner Korte suggested that there may be a need to go to the Fountain Hills Town Council about this rule.

PRESERVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Miller stated that she had a meeting with the Cave Creek Ranger District this afternoon and that it was a very positive meeting. Ms. Miller stated that they are continuing to work on several projects including closing trails, and working with Mr. Andrews in the stewardship classes.

Ms. Miller commented that she would be meeting with all the different police department squads out of districts 2 and 3 over the next two weeks to educate them about the Preserve Rules & Regulations.

Commissioner Carla complimented Ms. Miller on her diligence in working to improve the City's relationship with Ms. Tammy Pike.

Commissioner Carr asked if they were going to continue closing trails around Pima/Dynamite.

Ms. Miller responded that they were working with the State Land Department on that and that all the trails had been GPS'd and that they would be determining which trails need to be closed.

Ms. Miller commented that the Earth Day event would be on April 22, 2002 at Brown's Ranch and that they would be closing off the summit trail with help from the Hyatt Regency staff. Ms. Miller commented that there was an environmental event at the Water Campus on April 22, 2002.

Commissioner Myers asked what trails were GPS'd.

Ms. Miller commented that anything that looked like it was being used or had scarring.

Commissioner Myers commented that the GPSing was invaluable.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Rau TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR May 2, 2002 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. ARS 38-431.03 (A) (3) and (A) (7). MOTION WAS SECONDED by Commissioner Ruff, which carried unanimously, 10-0.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Korte stated that it was an honor to be here and to work with this Commission.

Chairman Smith stated that he would be working on a list that would focus on items that the Commission would need to be working on in the next 12 months and that he would be bringing it to the Commission for their review and input.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A member of the audience asked if the Commission or staff had considered purchasing scenic parcels outside the Preserve boundaries.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Cafarella suggested State Land and an update on the meetings held with the Police Department.

Commissioner Carla suggested the future of enforcement in the Preserve as an agenda item and that a committee may need to work on developing what that would look like.

Chairman Smith asked that the Focus Items be put on the agenda.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.

Submitted by:

Cathy Eley

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Recording Secretary

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